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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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PAGE 2 RUGMAT 5886A UNCLAS
1. MINISTER TO PRIME MINISTER COLONEL GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE TO GREEK AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS LAST EVENING. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS HIS OPENING STATEMENT AND ANSWERS TO REPORTER'S QUESTIONS.

2. ARMY ACTED BECAUSE COUNTRY HAD REACHED POLITICAL DEADLOCK AND GREEKS WERE BEING LED TOWARD COMMUNISM.

3. AIMS OF NEW "NATIONAL GOVERNMENT" ARE SOCIAL REFORMATION OF INDIVIDUALS OF OUR SOCIETY REORGANIZATION OF STATE SO AS TO CONSTITUTE MACHINERY FOR SERVICE OF SOCIETY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COUNRTY WITHIN FRAMEWORK EEC, ASSURING NATIONAL SECURITY WITHIN TREATIES TO WHICH COUNTRY IS SUBJECT, AND PROMOTION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE CAN PROMTE THEM. PAPADOPOULOS ADDED THAT IN GOVERNMENT'S VIEW MEANING OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IS DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THAT OF ANARCHY.

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A. USING MEDICAL METAPHOR TO WHICH HE AND REPORTERS REPEATEDLY RETURNED, PAPADOPOULOS SAID "WE ARE BEFORE A SICK MAN WHOM WE HAVE ON OPERATING TABLE, AND IF SURGEON DOES NOT FASTEN HIM TO TABLE DURING OPERATION THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT INSTEAD OF RESTORING HIS HEALTH THROUGH OPERATION HE COULD LEAD HIM TO DEATH. RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY GOVERNMENT, PAPADOPOULOS EXPLAINED, ARE ONLY BINDINGS FASTENING PATIENT TO OPERATING TABLE SO THAT HE WILL UNDERGO OPERATION WITHOUT DANGER.
5. ASKED IF CABINET HAS TIME LIMIT WITHIN WHICH TO RESTORE PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT TO GREECE, PAPADOPOULOS SAID THAT TIME OPERATION WOULD TAKE AND TIME REQUIRED FOR RECOVERY OF PERSON OPERATED UPON DEPENDS ON RECUPERATIVE POWERS OF BODY AND EXTENT OF ILLNESS. "OUR INTENTION IS TO BRING BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PARLIAMENTARY REGIME TO THIS COUNTRY... BUT DON'S ASK ME TO BECOME A PROPHET."

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6. PAPADOPOULOS APOLOGIZED FOR ANY DIFFICULITES ENCOUNTERED WITH CENSORSHIP BY FOREIGN NEWSMEN, SAID CENSORSHIP HAS BEEN LIFTED FOR THEM.

7. TWENTY-FIVE PERSONS CONNECTED WITH POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF COUNRTY HAVE BEEN DETAINED, ARE NOW LIVING UNDER EXCELLENT CONDITIONS EITHER AT THEIR HOMES UNDER GUARD OR AT HOTEL OUTSIDE ATHENS, WILL BE RELEASED AFTER A FEW MORE DAYS. ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND PERSONS CHARACTERIZED BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES AS "DANGEROUS COMMUNISTS" HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO A PLACE WHERE THEY WILL LIVE UNDER GUARD. "THEY WILL SOON BE CALLED BY SECURITY COUNCILS, WHICH OPERATE ACCORDING TO LAW AND IN WHICH JUDGES PARTICIPATE. IF THEY ARE DESCRIBED AS PERSONS NOT DANGEROUS THEY WILL BE FREED."

8. ASKED WHEN GOVERNMENT PLANS DISCLOSE EVIDENCE OF COUP PLANNED BY COMMUNISTS, PAPADOPOULOS SAID MATERIAL GATHERED HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO ATHENS.

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CONSISTS OF 70 THREE-TON TRUCKLOADS, AND WILL BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

9. GOVERNMENT INTENDS REFORM CERTAIN ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION.

10. GEORGE PAPANDREOU IS AT ARMY SHARE FUND HOSPITAL AND HIS HEALTH IS FINE. ANDREAS IS LIVING AT HOTEL OUTSIDE OF ATHENS.

11. ASKED IF ONLY ILLNESS FROM WHICH PERSON TO BE OPERATED ON SUFFERED WAS VICTORY OF LIBERAL FORCES IN ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 26, PAPADOPOULOS SAID DANGER WAS NOT PROBABLY VICTORY OF ONE PARTY BUT RATHER ROUTE TOWARD COMMUNISM THAT GREECE HAD TAKEN.

12. ASKED IF GOVERNMENT CONCERNED ABOUT IMPRESSION MADE ON INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION BY ARMY'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER THROUGH A COUP, MINISTER RESPONDED SAYING NATION MORE IMPORTANT THAN EFFECT

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ON INTERNATION OPINION.

13. ASKED IF APRIL 21 COUP WAS BACKED BY FOREIGN POWERS, MINISTER REPLIED THOSE WHO HEADED COUP WERE NOT INFLUENCED BY ANYONE. NO ONE KNEW THEIR AIMS, NO ONE CONSULTED THEM, NO ONE HELPED THEM.

14. ASKED ABOUT RELATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND KING BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER COUP, PAPADOPOULOS SAID BEFORE REVOLUTION RELATIONS WERE THAT BETWEEN ARMED FORCES AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. SAME IS TRUE AFTER REVOLUTION. RELATIONS WERE DISTURBED ONLY DURING HOURS OF COUP. "WE ACTED WITHOUT KING'S KNOWLEDGE," BUT THIS HAD BEEN NECESSARY BECAUSE ACTION HAD TO BE QUICK AND TAKE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. RELATIONS NOW ARE SHOWN BY PICTURE IN TODAY'S PRESS OF CABINET WITH KING IN MIDDLE.

15. ASKED IF GOVERNMENT PLANS TO MUTILATE LEFT PARTS OF ILL PERSON WHO WILL BE OPERATED ON,

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PAPADOPOULOS SAID GOVERNMENT DOESN'T HANDLE KNIVES OR AXES. THE GREEK CANNOT BE A COMMUNIST. GOVERNMENT WILL DISMANTLE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH GREEKS BECOME COMMUNISTS. "WE WILL NOT MUTILATE ANYONE. BUT WE WILL NOT PERMIT ANYONE TO MUTILATE US."

16. PAPADOPOULOS DENIED GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CALL BACK KARAMANLIS AS "POLITICAL ARBITRATOR." HE SAID GREEK PEOPLE WILL DECIDE THROUGH PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE WHO WILL GOVERN THEM, AFTER ACHIEVEMENT PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S AIMS.

17. PAPADOPOULOS CALLED ON GREEK AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN TO WRITE TRUTH. "WE WANT TRUTH, NOT PARTIALITY."
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